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torical transformation of organisms. It is argued, he summarizes, that “they perform fascism and thus are properly considered fascist wheat, fascist potatoes, and fascist pigs” (p. 19).

Heiko Stoff

Heiko Stoff works at the Institut für Geschichte, Ethik und Philosophie der Medizin at the Medizinische Hochschule Hannover.

Johannes Feichtinger; Herbert Matis; Stefan Siennell; Heidemarie Uhl (Editors).

The Academy of Sciences in Vienna, 1938 to 1945. Translated by **Nick Somers** and **Cynthia Peck-Kubaczek**. 270 pp., illus., apps., bibl., index. Vienna: Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, 2014. €19.90 (paper).

By now, every major academy or university in Germany, Austria, and the countries occupied by the Germans during World War II has come to terms with and taken responsibility for its conduct during the Nazi period. The Academy of Sciences in Vienna is no exception. From 1938, after the *Anschluss*, to 1945 the academy was fully integrated into the Nazi regime. New statutes were drafted, new officials were elected, Jewish members were dismissed, and members who were or were supposed to be political opponents of the Nazi regime were dismissed as well. Twenty-one full and corresponding members had to leave the academy, as well as a number of employees. Science as practiced in the academy and its institutes was harmonized with the regulations and the ideological goals of the Nazi Party. Soon after the liberation of Vienna in April 1945, the academy started to downplay its commitment to the Nazi regime, and in 1947, in his official *Geschichte der Akademie der Wissenschaften in Wien 1847–1947*, the classicist and acting president of the academy Richard Meister declared: “The work of the Academy—in terms of its business and the content and the spirit of the work—was not significantly influenced by the political transformation . . . , and in the work carried out and published during this time, it did not deviate from its position of research based on strict scientific objectivity.” From the late 1960s this complacent and utterly misleading way of looking back at the past was criticized by a new generation of scholars. Historians, both within and outside the academy, started serious research on what had happened after March 1938. In 1997, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the academy, Herbert Matis, Professor of Economic and Social History at the University of Vienna, published a short book on the academy during the Nazi period, *Zwischen Anpassung und Widerstand: Die Akademie der Wissenschaften in den Jahren 1938–1945*, in which he revealed that the academy had wholeheartedly embraced the ideas and ideals of the new regime. More recently, in 2013, a team of historians and archivists, Matis among them, organized an exposition devoted to this embarrassing period in the academy’s history, accompanied by a book entitled *Die Akademie der Wissenschaften in Wien 1938–1945*. The book now under review is an English translation of this exposition catalogue. It is owing to circumstances in which I was not involved that this review is only now being published.

The book comprises three parts. The first one contains sixteen short chapters dealing with the main protagonists, the immediate consequences of the *Anschluss*, the new programmatic and structural orientation of the academy, and its national and international connections. The second part offers four short chapters on the way in which the academy dealt with National Socialism after 1945, and the third part contains short biographies of the members and employees of the academy mentioned in the book. Throughout the authors are mainly concerned with documenting what happened in the academy after 1938, though not hiding that they all deplore and disapprove of the immediate *Selbstgleichschaltung* (self-streamlining) of the academy during that period. The so-called *Widerstand* (resistance) of the academy to the Nazi regime to which Matis referred in 1997 is not given a prominent position in the book. In fact, it was not resistance to National Socialism as such; it was, rather, resistance to the plans of the Nazis, first put forth in 1940, for the creation of an academy for the whole Reich (*Reichsakademie*), the establishment of which would have severely curtailed

the administrative autonomy of the Vienna academy. Moreover, the highly embarrassing history of the failed purification of the academy after 1945 and the reinstatement of former Nazi members even before 1940 is spelled out in detail. The historian Heinrich Srbik, a prominent member of the Nazi Party who was elected president of the academy in April 1938 and remained in office until the end of the war, was suspended in 1945, but already in 1948 an amnesty law permitted him to be reinstated. Likewise, the botanist Fritz Knoll was rehabilitated quite rapidly. As rector of the University of Vienna after the *Anschluss* he had dismissed all professors “who were not suitable to teach at a National Socialist university.” In 1938, as well, he had been charged with safeguarding “the interests of the regional administration of the Nazi Party in Austria at the Academy of Sciences,” and in this capacity he got rid of all the Jewish members and researchers at the academy. As a reward, he was elected a full member of the academy in November 1938. In 1945 he was kicked out, but in 1948 he too was reinstated. He even acted as the academy’s general secretary from 1959 to 1964—as if nothing had happened.

The editors of this book are to be complimented on presenting us with the bare facts of this shameful period in the history of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. However, they hardly touch on the pressing question of why the Austrian scientific and scholarly community, as represented by the academy, embraced the new regime so completely. For Austrians perhaps this may be self-evident. German nationalism and anti-Semitism were rampant in Austria well before the *Anschluss*. Austria had become a republic in 1918, but a large proportion of the students and the professors opposed the ideas behind the republic. Antiliberalism, in conjunction with anti-Semitism, dominated the political climate, and well before the *Anschluss* a fascist *Ständestaat* (corporate state) had effectively castrated the republic, even though Jews were tolerated to a degree and the Nazi Party was banned. The continuities between the periods before and after 1938 were thus more prominent than one would suppose. Furthermore, in the 1950s Austrian conservatives and antimoderns again dominated the country’s politics. Already in the late 1940s the former protagonists of the *Ständestaat* made peace with the ex-Nazis to win them over to their cause and together run the country (the aforementioned Meister was one of these former supporters of the *Ständestaat*). Because *The Academy of Sciences in Vienna, 1938 to 1945*, is meant for non-Austrians, the editors might have done well to devote more attention to these political and cultural continuities between the periods before and after the Nazi regime.

Klaas van Berkel

Klaas van Berkel is Rudolf Agricola Professor of History at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. He is the author of De stem van de wetenschap: Geschiedenis van de Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen 1808–2002 [The Voice of Science: History of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences] (2 vols.; Bakker, 2008, 2011).

Daniel E. Bender. *The Animal Game: Searching for Wildness at the American Zoo.*

393 pp., figs., index. Cambridge, Mass./London: Harvard University Press, 2016.
\$39.95 (cloth).

In August 1996 Binti-jua, a gorilla born and bred in America, rescued a three-year-old boy from her inquisitive mates at Brookfield Zoo. When the boy fell into the gorilla enclosure, Binti-jua embraced the injured child with maternal care and returned him to a zookeeper. Daniel E. Bender suggests that this incident testifies to the essential contradiction of American zoos. While zoos were originally designed to recreate exotic nature by bringing animals back alive from the African savanna and Asian jungles, after the age of empire zoo animals began and ended their lives in captivity. Civilized and enlightened, anthropoids go so far as to cross the species boundary: they can be more humane than humans.

The Animal Game relates the history of American zoos from the late nineteenth century to the turn of the new millennium, when a growing number of people became aware of the zoo’s self-contradiction. It is